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LAWRENCE, KANSAS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1872

REPORT

OF THE

CONDITION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

IN THE

Indian Territory.

Enoch Hoag, Superintendent Indian Affairs:

LAWRENCE, KAS., Aug 13, 1872.

In accordance with the following instructions and supplemental instructions received while attending to the service indicated.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
CENTRAL SUPERINTENDENCY,
LAWRENCE, KANSAS, 5th, 30th, 1872.

CYRUS BEEDE, CHIEF CLERK:—Thou will proceed at once to the Cheyenne, Kiowa and Wichita agencies, or any other point practicable in the vicinity, in order to learn the facts connected with the late capture of 121 government mules and other animals, in charge of a battalion of four companies of infantry, on Bear creek, thirty-five miles south of Fort Dodge, in command of Capt Moore. I request a thorough investigation in the case, and if said animals are found in possession of any Indians of this superintendency, that they be required to surrender the same to the commander at Camp Supply, and that a full report of the case be returned to this office as early as practicable, and if citizens are principals or participants, either as instigators or abettors, it is important that it be known, that the responsibility may rest with the authors

Respectfully,
ENOCH HOAG, Superintendent.

I left Lawrence on the 30th day of 5th month (May) last, and arrived at the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Agency on the North Fork of the Canadian river in the Indian Territory, on the 6th of 6th month, following. I at once wrote letters to agents Tatum and Richards, requesting their co-operation in procuring a council of the Kiowas and wild bands of Comanches, with a view to the recovery of stolen property, and securing peaceful relations between them and the U. S. Government. I also conferred with acting agent Miles and Big Mouth, a leading chief of the Arapahoe Indians, upon the same subject. Two days afterwards (6,8), I called a council of that portion of the Arapahoe tribe located at the Agency. At this council brief allusion was made to the death of their late agent (Darlington) his disinterested labors among them for three years past, the good council and advice he had often given them, to live in peace among themselves and other Indian tribes and with the Government. They manifested an appreciation of his services, and assured me of their peaceful intentions, and evinced a determination to travel the white man's road; and in this connection I may say they are patronizing the school and manifest a deep interest in the progress of their children. Several of the leading men have, to a small extent, engaged in agricultural pursuits. The necessity of industrial labor among them as essential to their prosperity is not yet appreciated.

Learning that the Arapahoes are in frequent communication with the Kiowas and other raiding Indians, through the Cheyennes, and finding it impossible to communicate directly with the Indians of the plains, I remained at the agency for some time embracing every opportunity to elicit information concerning the whereabouts and intentions of the latter. I learned here that a large, general "medicine lodge" had been lately held by the Indians of the plains generally, at which the Kiowas declared for war, and appealed to the Cheyennes and Arapahoes to join them, which invitation the latter tribes declined, expressing themselves for the Government, and evincing their friendship by insisting on the return of the mules stolen from Captain Moore's command, and actually taking a portion of them from the Kiowas and returning them to Camp Supply. This recapture and return was effected through the influence of "Gray Beard," which chief deserves some consideration at the hands of the Government for this practical demonstration of fidelity, at a time when every inducement was offered by the Kiowas for him and his people to join them and participate in their raids.

6, 13.—George Bent, Cheyenne interpreter, arrived from their camps and informed me of the accession to the Kiowas of a large number of Mes ca la-ro or white mountain Apaches, (confederates of Mowaway, now camped on Bitter river, north fork of the Red River.) On the same day Ni watch (or left hand) a leading Arapahoe of Little Raven's band, arrived at the agency and informed me that the Kiowa chiefs were generally favorable to peace but the young men ... He was in their camp nine nights ago. Lone Wolf, Kicking Bird, and Stumbling Bear gave up the mules to Gray Beard, which were returned to Camp Supply. He reports an ill feeling existing between the Cheyennes and Kiowas on account of the depredations of the latter on the reservation of the former. "Medicine Arrow," "Old Whirlwind" and "Heap of Birds," Cheyenne chiefs, are with the Kiowas, but are not understood as participating in their raids, their influence is small, one lodge only remaining with them outside their own respective families.

Ni watch also reported the recent raids committed at Howard Springs, Texas, wherein a Government train consisting of arms and ammunition was captured, to have been the work of Kiowas under the leadership of Big Bow, and that by this capture they supplied themselves with a plenty of ammunition, and a large number of breech loading rifles.

6, 14. Raven's band of Arapahoes arrived at the agency, and a council with the principle men of the tribe corroborates the foregoing statement of Ni watch.

6, 15. I went to the Wichita agency to confer with Agent Richards, and to hear the report of Asa Habit, (Commanche) sent out to confer with the Kiowas. He expresses the belief that Lone Wolf would be induced to come into the agency soon and promised to use his influence with him and other leading chiefs to that end.

6, 16. This morning before daybreak, fifty one Government mules were stolen from Fort Sill. This depredation was committed by a half dozen Commanches of the Co-che tech ka band, who are confederates with those on the Staked Plains and are not on the reservation, and have not been for several years.

6, 24. I this day succeeded in securing the services of Ed Guerrier (half-breed Cheyenne) to proceed directly to the Chyenne camps with a special message, urging them to remove their camps as far distant from the Kiowas as practicable, and confine themselves to their own reservation, and an invitation to them to come at once to the agency. I also instructed him, if practicable, to confer with the Kiowas, and urge their chiefs to meet me at once for the purpose of council.

Received the following communication from Superintendent Hoag:

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
CENTRAL SUPERINTENDENCY,
LAWRENCE, KANSAS, 6th mo., 22d, 1872.

CYRUS BEEDE, Chief Clerk.

The General Council I. T., have arranged for a council with the Raiding Indians of the Plains, in order to arrest their hostilities, under the following resolution:

Whereas, It is with profound regret that the General Council has learned that depredations have recently been committed by parties of Indians of the plains, upon citizens and property of the United States; *and whereas*, it is the earnest desire of the General Council that all the nations and tribes of the Indian Territory should be at peace among themselves, and with the Government and people of the United States; therefore

Be it resolved by the General Council of the Indian Territory, That the President of the Council be and he is hereby authorized and requested to appoint a Commission, to consist of two members of the General Council from the Choctaws two from the Muscogees, two from the Seminoles, and two from the Cherokees, together with such others as he may select and appoint from the Comanches, Delawares, or Caddoes, and Affiliated Bands, who shall be and hereby are instructed to proceed as early as practicable to the Kiowas and other tribes of the plains, not represented in this General Council, and assure them of the continued friendship of the nations and tribes confederated in the General Council, of their readiness to aid them in establishing friendly relations with the Government of the United States, to urge upon them the necessity of abstaining from further hostilities, and of remaining at peace with the same, and to invite them to send delegates to the next session of the General Council.

I have sent runners to their camps inviting them to meet their civilized brethren near old Fort Cobb on the 22d proximo. I regard the duties and results of this council as of vital importance to the Indians and to the country. Believing if any effective influence can reach these Raiding Indians it must be through the confederated tribes of their own race. I therefore request thee to remain and attend said council, meanwhile using all due exertion to prevent alliance between the hostile bands of Kiowas with the Cheyennes, and procure, if possible, the attendance of the former at the council, and keep this office fully informed of their movements. Respectfully,

ENOCH HOAG, Superintendent.

6, 26.—I again visited the Wichita agency, and on the following day, conferred with the runners appointed by Superintendent Hoag to invite the wild Indians to meet the civilized in council at or near the Wichita agency, on the 22d prox., and under instructions from the Superintendent, gave them the necessary advice, and encouraged them by all means faithfully to perform the duties imposed on them by the superintendent, and if practicable secure the attendance of the Kiowa chiefs, which they promised to do.

I learned here that Big Bow had recently returned to the Kiowa Camps with three captives; one a young woman about 17 or 18 years of age, the other two younger; they are whites and supposed to have been taken in Texas.

6, 28.—Three Cheyennes arrived at the agency to-day. They report everything peaceable at their camps. They also report a large number of Le Pan Apaches confederated with the Kiowas.

6, 30.—A few Cheyennes arrived to-day under